TO THE

Barnard Castle Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

I.

The mortality statistics for the past year were not quite so favourable as those of the preceding year, as 73 deaths had been registered, *i.e.*, 10 more than during 1904. Of this number 9 were of persons belonging to other districts brought for treatment in the Union Workhouse. On the other hand, 2 residents died in Sedgefield County Asylum. Thus only 64 deaths of residents were registered, producing a rate of mortality for the year of 14·34 per 1,000 inhabitants, according to a population of 4,602, estimated to the middle of the year. The death-rate of the county was 17·4 per 1,000 of estimated population, and of the whole of England and Wales, 15·2 per 1,000.

The rate of Infantile Mortality was correspondingly slightly increased—12 deaths having been registered under the age of 1 year, being equal to 2·6 per 1,000 of estimated population, or 118·8 per 1,000 births registered.

Twenty-eight deaths occurred amongst persons over 65 years of age, the oldest having been a male aged 89 years.

Zymotic or Infectious Diseases caused 4 deaths, namely :—

Whooping Cough	2 deaths
Croup	1 death
Diarrhœa	1 „
Total	4 deaths

This produces a Zymotic death-rate of 0·86 per 1,000 of population, which is considerably lower than the corresponding rates for the County of Durham and for England generally, which were respectively 2·37 and 1·52.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs accounted for 6 deaths only, or 1·3 per 1,000 of population.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases produced as many as 8 deaths, equal to a rate of 1·73 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Heart Disease was the registered cause of the death of 20 persons.

Cancer or Malignant Disease caused 3 deaths.

Two deaths were the result of Accidental Injury.

One-hundred-and-one births were registered during the year, or 21·94 per 1,000 of population. The birth-rate for the County of Durham was 34·4, and that of England and Wales, 27·2.

I again insert the following table, which may be interesting and useful for purposes of comparison :—

	Local Rates per 1,000.		County Rates.
	1905.	1904.	1905.
Birth-rate	21·94	28·28	34·4
Death-rate	14·34	12·93	17·4
Zymotic Death-rate	0·86	0·65	2·37
Respiratory Diseases-rate	1·30	0·87	3·16
Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases-rate	1·73	1·53	0·87
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births) ...	118·8	69·76	159·00

II.

With regard to the amount of General Sickness, I find on looking over my quarterly reports that it had been high almost throughout the entire year, particularly so during the first and last quarter, and in the months of June and July, the prevailing illnesses having been Diseases of the Lungs and Influenza of a mild type.

The rate of Infectious Sickness was, on the other hand, I am glad to say, very much lower than during the preceding year, so much so, in fact, that I did not find it necessary to make use of the Council's Infectious Hospital for isolation purposes. Only 16 cases of Infectious Disease were notified to me, namely :—

Scarlet Fever	7 cases
Enteric Fever	2 „
Erysipelas	5 „
Diphtheria	1 case
Croup	1 „
Total	16 cases

The case of *Membraneous Croup* occurred in Newgate, and was, I am sorry to say, very rapidly fatal.

Scarlet Fever was notified during the first and last quarter of the year from Galgate, Newgate, and Bridgegate. The first four were all connected with each other, and had probably the same origin—a mild, undetected, and untreated case attending the Infant School. The last case, occurring in December, was traced to outside infection.

Only two cases of *Enteric Fever* occurred in the town during the year—one at the North Eastern County School, and one in the Harmire district. The patient at the School contracted the disease whilst nursing Typhoid Fever in Birmingham Infirmary. The causation of the other case I was unable to ascertain.

With regard to the origin of the single case of *Diphtheria*, I was not able definitely to locate it, the only probable source being that the child had been in the habit of putting copper coins in its mouth, and might thus have taken in the infecting germ.

Only 5 cases of *Erysipelas* were notified to me, but I am sure there were a good many others in the town, as probably only the severest were brought to my notice, as there is some doubt amongst medical men as to the propriety of notifying this disease.

In addition to the above notifiable diseases there was a considerable amount of *Whooping Cough* in your district, with 2 fatal cases.

Diarrhœa was not very prevalent during the year, probably owing to the dryness of the season during July, August, and September.

III.

In connection with the general sanitary condition of the town and the methods in use for the proper maintenance of the public health, I have pleasure in reporting that they were under efficient supervision, and have been kept in as satisfactory a state as possible. Together with your Sanitary Inspector, I made a house-to-house inspection of a considerable portion of the town, particularly with regard to the privies. We found all wanting in light and ventilation, and the greater portion offensive and unsanitary. On these grounds I recommended the Council to have them converted into water-closets. In some cases this has been carried out, but, I am sorry to say, the worst ones—in Burton's Yard—still remain in *statu quo ante*.

There has been an increase in the house accommodation of the town, as a considerable amount of building has been undertaken, but there is still a want in the supply of small and cheap dwellings for the working-class population.

The sewerage and drainage of the town has been well attended to, and the Sewage Farm has continued to work both efficiently and advantageously.

With regard to the water supply it has been of good quality, but with the increasing population the quantity threatened to be insufficient during the dry season of the year, and the Council had several schemes under consideration for the supply of this deficiency. In this connection I had occasion to analyse samples of water from several springs, which, however, were not quite satisfactory. The question of increased supply or storage crops up every year, and I trust means will be found for carrying some scheme effectively out.

In connection with the precautions available and adopted against Infectious Disease, four houses have been disinfected and four lots of bedding stoved. As stated before, there has been no call to open the Infectious Hospital.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector has had occasion to bring the following nuisances before your notice :—

1	Nuisance relating to Ashpits, Privies, and Water-closets	5 cases
2	Nuisances „ Refuse and Manure	1 case
3	„ in connection with Drainage	24 cases
4	„ from Animals Improperly Kept	2 „
5	„ in connection with Water Supply	22 „
6	„ „ Offensive Trades	2 „
	Total ...	56 cases

All these, with one exception, have been remedied.

No action has been called for under the Workshops' and Factory Act.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALFRED H. SEVIER, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Printed at the "Teesdale Mercury" Office, Barnard Castle.

TO THE

BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

I.

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the mortality, sickness, and sanitary condition of my district during the year 1905. The number of deaths registered was identical with that of the preceding year, namely, fifteen, inclusive of one death of a resident which occurred in Sedgefield Asylum. This produces a rate of mortality of 15·01 per 1,000 of population estimated to the middle of the year.

The infantile mortality was, however, reduced, only two deaths having been registered under the age of one year, or 2·002 per 1,000 of population.

Amongst persons over 65 years of age five deaths were registered, the oldest having been that of a man 87 years old.

Lung Diseases accounted for four deaths, and Phthisis Pulmonalis for two.

I am glad to say that not a single death occurred from Infectious Disease.

Twenty-seven births were registered during the year.

II.

The rate of sickness, both general and infectious, was not very high in the district all through the year. There were very few cases of Diarrhœa, and not many Lung affections and other diseases caused by climatic changes and inclemency of the weather.

Only four cases of Infectious Disease were notified to me, namely :—

Scarlet Fever	2 cases
Diphtheria	1 case
Erysipelas	1 ,,
Total	4 cases

Other Infectious Disease, such as Whooping Cough and Chicken-pox, occurred to some extent in the district, but was not epidemic in character.

The two cases of **Scarlet Fever** were notified from the same house in Marwood—one in March, and the other in December. Although the house was thoroughly disinfected by your Inspector after the recovery of the first case, probably some germs must still have remained, and produced the second attack later in the year.

The single case of **Diphtheria** occurred in a farmhouse at Kinninvie. I could not ascertain its origin, and there was no further spread of the disease. This house was also disinfected by your Inspector.

III.

In connection with the sanitation of the district, and the means adopted for the preservation of the public health, the district has received efficient supervision, and various improvements have been effected.

The water supply of the village of Stainton has been abundant, and of good quality. The supply of the village of Whorlton is from wells, and has not varied during the year. I had occasion to analyse a sample of water from a well supplying Windy Hill Farm, and to condemn it as unfit for consumption. A new well has been sunk here, and found to be quite satisfactory.

The supply to Town Pasture Farm, occupied by a registered milk seller, was also found to be insufficient. This has been remedied by obtaining the water from the Tees Valley Water Board's mains.

With regard to matters connected with the sewerage, an improvement has been made at Whorlton by putting in a new sand and gravel filter bed at the sewage outfall.

During the past year the Council has erected a new Infectious Hospital in Marwood. This will soon be completed, and will form a useful addition to the means for combating Infectious Disease in the district.

Under the Factory Act's jurisdiction there are in my district only two workshops (blacksmiths') and three milk shops. All have been inspected by me, and found fairly satisfactory.

No complaints have reached me with regard to offensive trades.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

ALFRED H. SEVIER, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Printed at the "Teesdale Mercury" Office, Market Place, Barnard Castle.